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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER

Assistance au Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail (NER/79/008)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	July 1979
Starting date of project activities:	July 1979
Planned completion date:	June 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 1 398 500
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In order to promote its policy of economic and social independence, the Government of Niger has decided to reinforce its national professional training institutions, and more particularly the "Ecole National d'Administration (ENA)" where most of its civil servants and managers of semi-public and private enterprises are being trained.

2. Since 1965, UNDP has given technical assistance to ENA, in three successive projects (NER/65/503[1], NER/71/520 (Phase II)[2], and NER/77/001 (Phase III)[3]. The objectives of Phase III, which was completed in June 1979, were to improve the country's capacity in administrative management through a training programme of Niger nationals at the E.N.A.

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

1/ DP/R.10/Add.37.

2/ DP/GC/R.11/Add.76 and Corr.1., DP/PROJECTS/442.

3/ DP/PROJECTS/1042.

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School. At the same time it was envisaged that a large part of the responsibilities for teaching at the ENA would be transferred to national teaching staff.

3. Having benefited from UNDP assistance to ENA for 14 years, the Government has taken over the responsibility for administering the school. As regards the teaching at ENA, over 60 per cent was being carried out by national staff in 1979 compared with only 35 per cent in 1976. This achievement is attributable to effective implementation of the Phase III project (NER/77/001) during which the project was revised to take into account the needs and realities of Niger, especially the Government's ability to staff and finance the school on cessation of UNDP funding.

4. Although the Government is phasing out international assistance to ENA, further assistance has been requested for a limited period of two years, permitting UNDP assistance to be phased out as part of the present UNDP project that is focusing on the Civil Service Ministry (Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail), rather than on ENA.

II. Objectives and activities

5. The immediate objective of the project is to assist the "Ministère de la Fonction Publique et du Travail" in the areas of organization and methods, personnel management, data processing and in-service training. In addition to this, the project will continue to provide teaching assistance to ENA to be phased out gradually over a two-year period.

III. Inputs

6. Under the assistance now approved UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, the services of seven experts in the areas of organization and methods, personnel management, data processing, in-service training and public administration. Furthermore, four associate experts, three United Nations Volunteers, and a total of 193.5 man-months for fellowships are foreseen. Some equipment and miscellaneous expenditure are also included in the UNDP inputs.

7. To carry out the activities for which assistance is now approved, the Government of Niger will provide project offices in the Ministry, as well as national staff to replace the experts at the end of the project.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	1 162 300
Training	181 200
Equipment	35 000
Miscellaneous	20 000
	1 398 500

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $476,400 (in local currency).

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